From: Chemerys, Ruth
To: Lewicki, Chris
Subject: RE: Petition to Revise Snake River/Hells Canyon Nutrient TMDL
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:09:57 AM

Hi Chris-

Yes, you had mentioned the LIS TMDL petition – I don't know if I have a copy but can get one from you at some point….

From: Lewicki, Chris
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 3:07 PM
To: Chemerys, Ruth
Subject: RE: Petition to Revise Snake River/Hells Canyon Nutrient TMDL

Thanks

Do you hear about the petition to EPA to revise Long Island Sound Phosphorus TMDL?

From: Chemerys, Ruth
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Havard, James; Monschein, Eric; Lewicki, Chris; Peterson, Carol
Subject: Petition to Revise Snake River/Hells Canyon Nutrient TMDL

I learned about this petition from the Idaho Conservation League at the standards meeting last week:

http://advocateswest.org/case/idaho-water-quality-hells-canyon-pollution/

Link to petition:

https://www.advocateswest.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/3-9-2015-Hells-Canyon-TMDL-Petition.pdf

Idaho Water Quality: Hells Canyon Pollution

/algal blooms, Idaho water quality, phosphorus pollution, Snake River

On March 9, 2015, *Advocates for the West* filed a petition (linked below) on behalf of the Idaho Conservation League asking the US Environmental Protection Agency to revise Idaho's Hells Canyon Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which creates a plan to address excessive nutrient pollution by reducing phosphorus levels and meeting water quality standards on this stretch of the Snake River.

New reports and data show that the TMDL is inadequate, and after more than 10 years of implementing the TMDL, Hells Canyon continues to fail to meet water quality standards. By granting the petition, EPA can ensure water quality standards are met in Hells Canyon, as required by the Clean Water Act.

Excessive nutrient levels are causing algal blooms in Hells Canyon. Algal blooms block sunlight, which can destroy submerged aquatic vegetation, a critically important food source for many organisms, and they consume dissolved oxygen, which can disrupt fish and other aquatic life. The blooms can also cause taste and odor problems in drinking water. Hazardous algal blooms can cause respiratory distress and neurological problems in swimmers, and are also unattractive to recreators.

Nutrient pollution, which is caused by excess phosphorus and nitrogen, is one of America's most widespread environmental problems. In Hells Canyon, nutrient pollution is attributed primarily to agricultural runoff, urban and rural runoff, and sewage and septic waste.

The Hells Canyon reach stretches 220 miles along the Idaho-Oregon border. This reach includes three reservoirs (Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hells Canyon reservoirs). It also includes over 70 miles of the free-flowing Snake River upstream of the reservoir complex, and nearly

60 miles of the free-flowing Snake River downstream of the reservoir complex. The downstream segment is designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and flows through the Hells Canyon Wilderness, the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, and some of the deepest canyons in North America.
Files:
3-9-2015-Hells-Canyon-TMDL-Petition.pdf

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